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Plague at Porte Allegre—Suspect plague at Rio Grande do Sul.

Under date of March 19, the United States consular agent at Rio Grande do Sul writes me as follows:

There appears to be a divergence of opinion amongst the medical men of Porte Allegre regarding the disease, some classifying it as bubonic plague, others as malignant typhus, ataxic fever, etc.

Regarding this city, about seven or eight weeks ago a young woman (Italian), apparently in good health, died suddenly under suspicious circumstances.

About ten days ago a man was taken to the Portuguese hospital suffering apparently from bubonic plague. The disease was verified and classified as such.

It is reported unofficially that sporadic cases have occurred in the suburbs, but I have not heard of any fatal cases.

Disinfection of vessels.

The disinfection of vessels sailing from here to ports of Brazil lying to the south of this port is performed at the quarantine station at Ilha Grande. The plant is a very excellent one, and its working has certainly been attended with very good results as regards the disinfection of vessels leaving here for northern ports, which are shown by the freedom of such disinfected vessels from disease after leaving this port.

Progress of sanitation in the State of São Paulo.

The members of the French yellow-fever commission, who have been here some months, have visited the sewerage works at Rio Claro and express themselves as highly pleased with what they saw and recommend these works as models for other Brazilian towns. The system is said to be particularly good. The way in which the State of São Paulo has faced and almost solved the sanitary problem would be creditable to any country. Only a few years ago not a single town in São Paulo had any sewerage system. Interior towns, like Campinas, were decimated by fever and depopulation was threatened. Now there is not a town of any importance without its own system, and within a few years there will not be a village that is not well supplied with water, drains, and sewers.

We have before us the report of the municipality of São Carlos do Pinhal, formerly one of the worst fever districts.

In 1901 the cases of infectious disease numbered 1,244, in 1902 1,143, and in 1903, on completion of the sewerage system, fell to 754 for a population of some 50,000.

Mortality report of Rio de Janeiro for week ended March 27.

During the week ended March 27 there were, in all, 289 deaths—a very considerable decrease from the previous week. Of these deaths 1 was caused by yellow fever, with 1 new case reported. At the close of the week there was 1 case of this disease in the hospital of São Sebastião. The death occurred in the case of a person residing in the district of Santa Anna, in the city. Plague caused 2 deaths, with 1 new case. Both deaths occurred in the Paulo Cândido Hospital at